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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/032,628

10/26/2001

Richard Foltak

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12/14/2005

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EXAMINER

NEURAUTER, GEORGE C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2143

DATE MAILED: 12/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/032,628

Applicant(s)

FOLTAK ET AL.

Examiner

George C. Neurauter, Jr.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 September 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-25 are currently presented and have been examined.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 2 September 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Applicant argues that the prior art does not teach that the Acct-Session-ID is unique with respect to a plurality of access servers as amended. The Examiner is not persuaded by this argument. "RFC 2866" does disclose this limitation page 3, section 1.2 "Terminology", specifically "session").

Further, The Applicant admits that "existing systems...operated in situations in which it is 'possible for the AAA server 30a to receive n session values, where each of the n session values corresponds to a different NAS 28 but is the same number. The AAA server 30a can easily handle this condition because the AAA server 30 associates each session id value with the corresponding NAS 28 based upon a unique NAS address for each NAS. Because each of these duplicative session id's is coming from a different NAS address, the AAA Server 30a can distinguish between the NAS's 28a-28n when managing the sessions involved'. Specification, p 10. Thus, existing techniques were available to handle the situation in which

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multiple network access server communication the same session identifier to the same AAA server.".

In view of the Applicant's admission, the prior art teaches that the AAA server is able to distinguish which NAS or network access server the session ID is coming from based on the NAS's address even though the session ID is the same. Therefore, each session between the AAA server and the corresponding NAS is unique because the AAA server can delineate between NASes. Therefore, the Applicant's admission strengthens the Examiner's position that generating a unique session identifier which is unique with respect to a plurality of access servers exists in the prior art. Therefore, this limitation as claimed cannot be the basis for patentability.

The Applicant argues that the cited prior art does not teach providing a unique session identifier to an Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting (AAA) module which receives AAA processing requests from the network access servers. The Examiner does not agree. Both "RFC 2866" as shown previously by the Examiner and the Applicant's admitted prior art both disclose this limitation.

It is noted that the Applicant has made failed to show why each and every amendment made to the claims have any sort of patentable novelty or advantage. MPEP 714.04 states:

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"In the consideration of claims in an amended case where no attempt is made to point out the patentable novelty, the claims should not be allowed. See 37 CFR 1.111 and MPEP 714.02."

Therefore, the case is not in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3-4, 6, 8-12, 14-16, 18-19, 21, and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by "RFC 2866".

Regarding claim 1, "RFC 2866" discloses a method for maintaining a unique session ID in a network, comprising:

creating a session identifier for a user, wherein the unique session identifier is unique with respect to a plurality of network access servers ("Acct-Session-ID"; page 3, section 1.2 "Terminology", specifically "session"; page 4, section 2 "Operation", specifically "When a client is configured to use RADIUS Accounting, at the start of service delivery it will generate an Accounting Start Packet..."; page 15, section 5.5

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"Acct-Session-ID", specifically "An Accounting-Request packet MUST have an Acct-Session-ID"); and

providing the unique session identifier to an Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting (AAA) module wherein each of the network access servers is configured to request AAA processing from the AAA module ("RADIUS Accounting Server"). (page 4, section 2 "Operation", specifically "When a client is configured to use RADIUS Accounting, at the start of service delivery it will generate an Accounting Start Packet...and will send that to the RADIUS Accounting server...")

Regarding claim 3, "RFC 2866" discloses the method recited in Claim 2, wherein the unique identifier is an IP address. ("NAS-IP-Address")

Regarding claim 4, "RFC 2866" discloses the method recited in Claim 1, further comprising providing the unique session identifier to an off-load server ("forwarding server"). (pages 4 and 5, section 2.3, "Proxy", specifically "1. The NAS sends an accounting-request to the forwarding server"; pages 15-16, section 5.5, "Acct-Session-Id", specifically "An Accounting-Request packet MUST have an Acct-Session-Id")

Regarding claim 6, "RFC 2866" discloses a system, comprising:

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a network access server ("NAS" or, alternatively "client") wherein the network access server is configured to generate a unique session identifier for a user, wherein the unique session identifier is unique with respect to a plurality of network access servers, wherein the plurality of network access servers include the network access server; ("Acct-Session-ID"; page 3, section 1.2 "Terminology", specifically "session"; page 4, section 2 "Operation", specifically "When a client is configured to use RADIUS Accounting, at the start of service delivery it will generate an Accounting Start Packet..."; page 15, section 5.5 "Acct-Session-ID", specifically "An Accounting-Request packet MUST have an Acct-Session-ID")

wherein the network access server is configured to provide the unique session identifier to an AAA module; and wherein the AAA module performs AAA processing for each of the plurality of network access servers. (page 4, section 2 "Operation", specifically "When a client is configured to use RADIUS Accounting, at the start of service delivery it will generate an Accounting Start Packet...and will send that to the RADIUS Accounting server...")

Regarding claim 8, "RFC 2866" discloses the system recited in Claim 6, further comprising: the plurality of network access servers; wherein each of the plurality of network access servers

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is configured to generate a unique session identifier; ("Acct-Session-ID"; page 3, section 1.2 "Terminology", specifically "session"; page 4, section 2 "Operation", specifically "When a client is configured to use RADIUS Accounting, at the start of service delivery it will generate an Accounting Start Packet..."; page 15, section 5.5 "Acct-Session-ID", specifically "An Accounting-Request packet MUST have an Acct-Session-ID")

Regarding claim 9, "RFC 2866" discloses the system recited in Claim 6, further comprising an off-load server ("forwarding server"), the off-load server being coupled to receive the unique session identifier from the network access server. (pages 4 and 5, section 2.3, "Proxy", specifically "1. The NAS sends an accounting-request to the forwarding server"; pages 15-16, section 5.5, "Acct-Session-Id", specifically "An Accounting-Request packet MUST have an Acct-Session-Id")

Regarding claim 10, "RFC 2866" discloses the system recited in Claim 9, wherein the off-load server is configured to provide the unique session identifier to the AAA module. (pages 4 and 5, section 2.3, "Proxy", specifically "2. The forwarding server...forwards the request to the remote server")

Regarding claim 11, "RFC 2866" discloses the system recited in Claim 9, wherein the off-load server is configured to provide the unique session identifier to the AAA module, and the AAA

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module is configured to perform port counting. (pages 4 and 5, section 2.3, "Proxy", specifically "2. The forwarding server...forwards the request to the remote server")

Regarding claim 12, "RFC 2866" discloses the system recited in Claim 6, further comprising the AAA module, the AAA module being further configured to receive the unique session identifier from the network access server. (page 4, section 2 "Operation", specifically "When a client is configured to use RADIUS Accounting, at the start of service delivery it will generate an Accounting Start Packet...and will send that to the RADIUS Accounting server...")

Regarding claim 14, "RFC 2866" discloses the system recited in Claim 9, wherein the off-load server is further configured to generate a start record, the off-load server being further configured to associate the start record with the unique session identifier (page 4, section 2. "Operation", specifically "When a client is configured to use RADIUS accounting, at the start of service delivery it will generate an Accounting start packet..."; page 15, section 5.5 "Acct-Session-ID", specifically "An Accounting-Request packet MUST have an Acct-Session-ID"); and the off-load server is further configured to provide the start record to the AAA module that provides for performing accounting processing. (pages 4 and 5, section 2.3, "Proxy",

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specifically "2. The forwarding server...forwards the request to the remote server")

Regarding claim 15, "RFC 2866" discloses the system recited in Claim 9, further wherein the off-load server is further configured to generate a stop record, the off-load server being further configured to associate the stop record with the unique session identifier; (page 4, section 2 "Operation", specifically "At the end of service delivery the client will generate an Accounting Stop packet..."; page 15, section 5.5 "Acct-Session-ID", specifically "An Accounting-Request packet MUST have an Acct-Session-ID") and

the off-load server is further configured to provide the stop record to the AAA module that provides for performing accounting processing. (pages 4 and 5, section 2.3, "Proxy", specifically "2. The forwarding server...forwards the request to the remote server")

Claims 16 and 18-19 are also rejected since claims 16 and 18-19 recite an apparatus that contains substantially the same limitations as recited in claims 1 and 3-4 respectively.

Claims 21 and 23-24 are also rejected since claims 21 and 23-24 recite a computer program product that contains substantially the same limitations as recited in claims 1 and 3-4 respectively.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over "RFC 2866".

Regarding claim 5, "RFC 2866" discloses the method recited in Claim 1.

"RFC 2866" does not expressly disclose wherein creating a unique session identifier further comprises creating a unique session identifier for the plurality of network access servers,

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however, "RFC 2866" does disclose wherein a unique identifier is used for each of a plurality of network access servers ("NAS-IP-Address").

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to create a unique session identifier for each of a plurality of network access servers since "RFC 2866" suggests that any sort of method of generating a unique session identifier may be used (page 16, section 5.5 "Acct-Session-ID", specifically "Other encodings are possible"). One of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to create a unique session identifier by using a unique identifier for each of a plurality of network access servers as claimed based on the teachings and suggestions of "RFC 2866".

Claims 2, 7, 13, 17, 20, 22, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over "RFC 2866" in view of Applicant's admitted prior art.

Regarding claim 2, "RFC 2866" discloses the method recited in Claim 1.

"RFC 2866" does not expressly disclose wherein creating a unique session identifier further comprises appending a unique identifier to a local session identifier, wherein the one of the network access servers generates the unique session identifier, however, "RFC 2866" does disclose a unique session identifier

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associated with an access server ("NAS-IP-Address"). ("Acct-Session-ID"; page 3, section 1.2 "Terminology", specifically "session"; page 4, section 2 "Operation", specifically "When a client is configured to use RADIUS Accounting, at the start of service delivery it will generate an Accounting Start Packet..."; page 15, section 5.5 "Acct-Session-ID", specifically "An Accounting-Request packet MUST have an Acct-Session-ID").

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to append a unique identifier associated with an access server to a local session identifier since "RFC 2866" suggests that any sort of method of generating a unique session identifier may be used (page 16, section 5.5 "Acct-Session-ID", specifically "Other encodings are possible"). The Applicant admits in the specification on page 10 that both the AAA server and the NAS are aware of a unique identifier such as the NAS address and a local session identifier such as a Session ID. The generation by a NAS of a unique session identifier by appending a unique identifier such as the NAS address to a local session identifier such as the session ID or a port as noted previously by the Examiner would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art since the NAS is aware of these identifiers and, since the prior art teaches that the NAS provides a session ID to the AAA server,

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appending a known identifier to another known identifier in order to produce a unique session identifier would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Therefore, one of ordinary skill would have found it obvious to append a local session identifier to a unique identifier to create a unique session identifier as claimed given the teachings and suggestions of "RFC 2866" and the common knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art as admitted by the Applicant.

Regarding claim 7, "RFC 2866" discloses the system recited in Claim 6, wherein the network access server is associated with an IP address. ("NAS-IP-Address")

"RFC 2866" does not expressly disclose wherein and the unique session identifier comprises the IP address.

Claim 7 is rejected since the motivations regarding the obviousness of claim 2 also apply to claim 7.

Regarding claim 13, "RFC 2866" discloses the system recited in Claim 6.

"RFC 2866" does not expressly disclose wherein the network access server is further configured to generate the unique session identifier by appending an IP address of the network access server to a local session identifier, however, "RFC 2866"

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does disclose a IP address associated with an access server ("NAS-IP-Address").

Claim 13 is rejected since the motivations regarding the obviousness of claim 2 also apply to claim 13.

Claims 17 and 20 are also rejected since claims 17 and 20 recite an apparatus that contains substantially the same limitations as recited in claims 2 and 5 respectively.

Claims 22 and 25 are also rejected since claims 22 and 25 recite a computer program product that contains substantially the same limitations as recited in claims 2 and 5 respectively.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

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extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

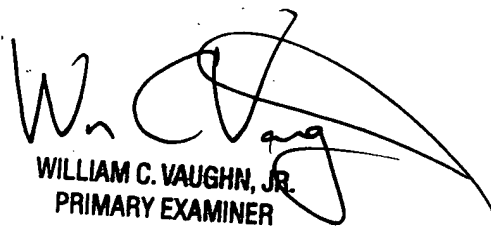
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George C. Neurauter, Jr. whose telephone number is (571) 272-3918. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9AM to 5:30PM Eastern.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wiley can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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gcn


WILLIAM C. VAUGHN, JR.
PRIMARY EXAMINER